



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2014

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Public Comment Sought On Camp Baker Host Site Project At Smith River State Park

-Comments due by Wednesday, October 15 at 5pm-

(Great Falls, MT) –Montana State Parks (stateparks.mt.gov) announced today that public comment is sought on a draft environmental assessment host site project located at Camp Baker in Smith River State Park. Camp Baker is the put-in site for recreational floaters on the Smith River near White Sulphur Springs, MT. Approximately 5,000 people per year float the Smith River.

The project proposes to develop a host site area at Camp Baker that can accommodate volunteer hosts during the primary float season each year. The hosts would perform a variety of duties including; addressing floater needs, assisting the Park Rangers, and providing site security for 60 plus vehicles and trailers at the site at any given time.

The project would include: construction of a gravel pad for the host site (approximately 35 ft x 12 ft) for RV parking; construction of a graveled area adjacent to the RV pad with a fire ring and picnic table; installation of buried water, electrical, and phone lines from the existing staff house to the host site; installation of one underground septic tank; and extension of the existing driveway to the RV pad.

Providing the basic amenities of a stable and level parking pad for a volunteer host as well as convenient and reliable electricity, water, sewer and phone will greatly enhance the ability to attract and maintain quality hosts for the long-term, ensuring a high-quality experience for floaters, as well as non-floating visitors.

The cost of this proposed project is estimated to be \$20,000. The funds for the project are provided by the Parks' Division major maintenance program.

To view the draft Environmental Assessment visit:

http://fwphIncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0033.html.

Public comments will be accepted for 30 days. **Comments should be submitted by Wednesday, October 15 at 5pm.**

The public is invited to submit comments **online** at: stateparks.mt.gov click on “public notices” on the right-hand navigation bar. Or by direct link here:

http://fwphIncmstst002.mt.gov/news/publicNotices/environmental-assessments/pn_0033.html.

Send comments by **email** to: CampBakerHostEA@mt.gov. Or by regular **mail** to: Camp Baker Host Pad Comments, 4600 Giant Springs Rd. Great Falls, MT 59405. Attention: Colin Maas.

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